

Commissioner's Update

December 20, 2010

Dear Connecticut Educator:

I have two items for you in this update.

Safe Routes to School Survey

The Connecticut Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) invites you to participate in a survey designed to take a snapshot of the existing student travel modes (busing, parent drop-off, walking, biking) at elementary and middle schools in Connecticut. To participate in this survey, go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/S3TTN76>.

The Safe Routes to School program is a national movement to promote safe and fun opportunities for children in grades kindergarten to eighth, including students with disabilities, to bicycle and walk to school. It is designed to empower schools and communities to make this a safe and routine activity. SRTS can help children get moving and become more physically active. Information from the survey will be utilized to establish baseline information in order to administer the program effectively. More information about the SRTS program is available at www.ctsaferoutes.org.

Walk It, Bike It to School, Connecticut!

Connecticut classrooms are invited to compete in the second annual **Walk It, Bike It to School, Connecticut!** contest, a fun statewide contest that encourages kids in kindergarten through Grade 8 to walk or bike to school. The Safe Routes to School's Program kicked off this year's contest on October 6, 2010, in celebration of International Walk to School Day. The contest challenges students to walk or bike the distance of the perimeter of the state of Connecticut, approximately 375 miles. Participating classrooms will compete against other classrooms throughout the state.

Last year, a sixth-grade class from Hartford's Moylan School won the contest, logging over 1,700 miles. Teachers or other school faculty can log mileage online at www.walkitbikeitct.org and compare their results to other schools in the state. Teachers will be able to log their student's progress until April 15, 2011. The login code for your elementary and middle schools is: **WALKBIKE10**.

The first classroom to walk the perimeter of the state (375 miles) along with the classrooms that log the highest total number of miles will be recognized at a ceremony on May 19, 2011, at the State Capitol.

To learn more, visit the contest Web site at www.walkitbikeitct.org, or e-mail info@walkitbikeitct.org.

Sincerely,

Mark K. McQuillan
Commissioner of Education